

BA 1954

SHAVER STORE

1886

FREELAND

PRIVATE

This large mansard roofed house served the expanded store business of James L. Gemmill who also served as the postmaster of Freeland. Its spaciousness suggests a design to serve summer boarders. The house is currently used as a residence and antique furniture store. The original Victorian scroll work of the porch has been replaced by post-and-pier supports typical of the Colonial Revival era. The house is three full stories, including the mansard level. The visible roof surface is bluish-green pressed tin, punctuated by gable-roofed dormers. On the track side of the house (west), there is a two story bay with three surfaces, providing windows at the first story, but a at the second level there is a sheltered balcony trimmed with iron grillwork railings. The balcony roofing is decorated with scroll brackets. This is a remarkably large house, an unusually gracious house for the north end of the county.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

SHAVER STORE

AND/OR COMMON

FREELAND POST OFFICE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1043 Freeland Road, e/s of N.C.R.R.

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ervin G. Poe, III, et. ux.

Telephone #: 352-8009

STREET & NUMBER

1043 Freeland Road

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21053

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: OTG 4593:

Folio #: 180

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE B.C. Historic Sites Inventory

MHT No. BA

DATE

On-going since 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSMaryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

MD 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1954

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Freelands Post Office is a large Mansard roofed house with prominent bay windows and a full-width front porch, a remarkably large house for the north county, a remarkably gracious house to find in a location so close to the road. It faces the south edge of Free-land Road and the deck of the hip-roofed store porch is only a step above grade. The porch posts are replacements, being square and hollow columns, typical of the Colonial Revival era, and set on brick piers topped by concrete slabs. Old photos show bracketed posts without the piers.

The fenestration facing the porch is a mixture of domestic and commercial with some sash windows and some store-front windows.

The main facade is three bays wide, with a one-over-one double-hung sash window in the center, flanked on either side by elaborate three-surfaced windows with individual mansard roofs, architraves, cornices, and Italianate bracketing.

The windows installed in these complex bays are typical 1-over-1 types. The surfaces facing the street contain contiguous twin sash windows.

The attic or Mansard level has three gable-roofed dormers with 1-over-1 sash windows, the upper sash having a slightly round-topped panes or lights.

The sides of the house follow the same style, with five mansard bays in the top story. The side wall (on the west, or railroad side) contains a two-story bay window with three surfaces; there are three windows opening from this bay at the first story, but the second story opens up as a sheltered balcony. There is iron grillwork for a balcony railing, scroll-sawn bracketing overhead.

Ordinary windows occupy the other positions flanking the central bay and balcony. At first-story level the window nearest the street is full sided 1-over-1 double-hung sash window, but the other three windows are small, rectangular, transoms, set high in the walls of the commercial storage rooms. At second story-level, the four windows are of domestic design, similar to others in the house.

The east facade is four bays deep, without projections, fenestrated with four dormers and irregularly arranged 1-over-1 sash windows.

Chimneys are located between 4th and 5th bays, counting back from the street facade, rising through the mansarding surface. The visible roofing material is pressed tin, bluish-green in color.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

ERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large, Mansarded frame house represented the improved setting for James L. Gemmill's general store business, which had functioned since at least 1866 on the north side of Freeland Road, also on the east side of the Northern Central tracks. Gemmill was married to Sarah Jane Freeland, and that made him son-in-law of the person for whom the depot was named. The county paper in the summer of 1886 reported:

Mr. J.L. Gemmill is erecting a commodious store and dwelling at Freeland, Northern Central Railroad.(1).

The 1898 Bromley atlas (Pl. 31) shows the building found there today as the "Store and P.O." The Freeland post office had been established in 1851 in the Gemmill store across the road. The building was worth \$2000 on the 1896 tax ledger and was charged to the storekeeper's widow, Mrs. Sarah H. Gemmill. (2) In 1910, Mrs. Gemmill sold to Issac Shaver and wife along with 56 acres. In 1913, J. Elmer Shaver and wife bought the place and held it four decades. Shaver was postmaster since 1925-1929.

The 1915 Bromley atlas showed the Shaver store and the 1918 tax ledger of the Seventh District showed John E. and Mary Shaver with 50 acres and a Dwelling 38 by 47 feet; they also had a barn 36x56(\$952) and \$2000 in "Assets." The three-story house was worth \$2545.(3) All told, the spacious structure gave Freeland Station a look of prosperity. Elmer Shaver died on December 2, 1936, and his wife kept the place until 1953, selling to Albert H. Froelich in 1953. (4)

In 1966 Albert H. Froelich and wife sold to Ervin Gist Poe, III and his wife Laverne Marie Poe. Mr. Poe conducts an antique shop in the large building and the porch is filled with objects of art of various kinds in heaps and piles. It is still a striking, handsome building that shows that Freeland once had a heyday and housed at least one capitalist in the Gilded Age.

1. Baltimore County Union, July 17, 197 1886, p. 3
2. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 6, 1896, Account No. 204-39.
3. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 7, f. 767
4. B.C. DEeds, GLB 2283; 107

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1954

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 ac 67 sq. perches**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning on the NE side of Northern Central Railroad Right of Way:

N46W 604 feet to road

N28 $\frac{1}{2}$ E 239.5 feetS47 $\frac{1}{2}$ E 692 feet

S50W 231 feet to BEGINNING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

None

COUNTY

None

STATE

None

COUNTY

None

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J.W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

1979

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD

21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

SHAVER STORE

BA 1954

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad

NEW FREEDOM





SHAVER STORE BA 1954
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, October 1979
Neg. located at MHT
North or main facade from NW



Still standing
East side of
Trachs

SHAVER STORE BA 1954
Baltimore County, Maryland
Photographer unknown, c1900
Neg. owned by Andrew Clemens
North facade



SHAVER STORE BA 1954
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, October 1980
Neg. located at MHT
East facade from NE